Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 December 2007

Current Nationwide

ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For info click here

- According to Reuters, utilities were bringing in out-of-state crews to help restore electric service after a weekend ice storm knocked out power to more than 530,000 customers in several states in the Central Plains. The weekend storm entered Oklahoma early Sunday, bringing freezing rain that caused significant ice accumulation on trees and overhead power lines. The weight of the ice pulled down tree branches and power lines, cutting power. That system later moved across Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. (See item 2)

- The San Francisco Chronicle reported on technology now being tested that would detect a dangerous quake along any of California's seismic faults and provide seconds or even minutes of early notification. Three systems are currently under test by California's Integrated Seismic Network, but even if they demonstrate complete success, the state's network of seismic monitoring instruments is far from ready, especially as compared to systems now deployed in several European and Japanese locations. (See item 22)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *December 11, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (Maine) **Maine's power system reaching capacity; blackouts could increase.** Blackouts and power watches like the one issued to Maine residents on Monday could become more widespread in the coming years due to the state's aging electrical transmission system, according to an ongoing report by

Central Maine Power Company. "(The transmission system) is reaching capacity," said the public affairs representative for the Maine Power Reliability Program -- a study of the state's power grid that started a year ago and is expected to be completed this spring. An executive summary of the study, which was first issued in June, states: "The Maine transmission system is both aging and nearing its technical and physical limits to meet the growing electrical demand needs for Maine customers." The study found that the grid's 345 kilovolt and 115 kilovolt power lines currently have "insufficient" transmission and transformation capacity. Ten years from now, the study projects, Maine's transmission system will reach critical capacity.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22198525/

2. *December 10, Reuters* – (Midwest) **Ice storm leaves 533,000 without power.** Utilities were bringing in out-of-state crews to help restore electric service after a weekend ice storm knocked out power to more than 530,000 customers in several states in the Central Plains, power companies said on Monday. The weekend storm entered Oklahoma early Sunday, bringing freezing rain that caused significant ice accumulation on trees and overhead power lines. The weight of the ice pulled down tree branches and power lines, cutting power. That system later moved across Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. Oklahoma was the hardest hit, with the state's two biggest utilities reporting about 235,000 and 200,000 customer outages each, late Monday. Oklahoma City-based Oklahoma Gas & Electric said the storm ranks as the utility's worst ice storm and warned customers that repairs could take up to 10 days. Crews have been called in from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi to assist local linemen and tree trimmers. In Kansas and Missouri, a spokeswoman for Empire District Electric Co., the hardest-hit power company in Kansas, said Monday it had 61,000 customers without power, down from 63,000 earlier. Other utilities with significant outages Monday evening included Ameren Corp with about 26,000 in Missouri, down from 31,000 earlier, and about 6,700 outages in Illinois, down from 10,000. Westar Energy Inc. reported about 4,400 customers without power in Kansas late Monday.
Source:
http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1042094320071210?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=22&sp=true

3. *December 10, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Texas) **Shell Oil opening new plant; expected to be one of 10 largest in the U.S.** Shell Oil began a major expansion in southeast Texas on Monday. Officials with the company broke ground on the new facility in Port Arthur, Texas. Shell says this new plant will be one of the 10 largest refineries in the U.S., and will increase their capacity to 600,000 barrels a day. That is enough gasoline to fill up 700,000 cars every day.
Source: http://www.wafb.com/global/story.asp?s=7477742

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *December 11, Associated Press* – (District of Colombia) **Spring Valley munitions excavation halted for safety concerns.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has halted

its excavation for World War I chemical weapons because of concerns about safety procedures during the digging. The excavations in the Spring Valley neighborhood in Northwest Washington, D.C., by American University started in October. It is expected to be the last round of digging in the former Army testing facility. The review of safety procedures was prompted by the preliminary analysis of an artillery round discovered three weeks ago. The safety procedures now in place assume a worst-case scenario involving the release of arsine – a toxic chemical agent – from an artillery round not configured to explode. But Corps officials said they do not know whether the round they just found was configured to explode. That is causing them to question whether the safety procedures in place under the first assumption are adequate. One Corps official said none of the munitions excavated in the area since chemical weapons were discovered there in 1993 were configured to explode.
Source: http://www.nbc4.com/news/14820391/detail.html?rss=dc&psp=news

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *December 10, Associated Press* – (California) **Diablo nuke plant waste could travel through San Luis Obispo, California.** In California, nuclear waste from the coastal Diablo Canyon power plant could be shipped by truck over San Luis Obispo County roads for loading onto trains heading for a proposed desert disposal site. The federal Department of Energy says the exact method for transporting radioactive waste to Nevada's Yucca Mountain will be made on a case-by-case basis. Rail and barge methods are being considered. The San Luis Obispo Tribune says that means there is still a possibility that Diablo's waste could be taken by barge to Port Hueneme for loading onto Nevada-bound trains. Federal officials hope to open Yucca Mountain in about nine years, with shipping of spent fuel from Diablo Canyon arriving seven years after it opens.
Source: http://www.cbs47.tv/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=2154b29e-47e1-49b0-a329-6d5021f1f415&rss=154

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *December 11, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy strategy chief floats new force options; officials deny interest.** The U.S. Navy's top strategist has floated to the chief of naval operations three alternatives to the service's current 30-year shipbuilding plan that, if adopted, would radically reshape American naval power. The three options are contained in a 26-page briefing entitled "Three Futures, One Navy, A Portfolio Analysis" by the service's strategy chief, which was e-mailed to the chief of naval operations, just before the Thanksgiving holiday. The force structure options — a 263-ship fleet optimized for major combat operations against a peer competitor; a 534-ship shaping force tailored for coalition and maritime security operations; and a 474-ship balanced force able to perform high- and low-end missions — would replace the current 30-year shipbuilding plan. Each option is based in part on the findings of a 2005 "table

top exercise" involving Lockheed Martin, the maker of the Aegis combat system that equips the Navy's cruisers and destroyers, as well as one of the two builders of the service's new Littoral Combat Ship.
Source: http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3241822&C=america

7. *December 11, Associated Press* – (National) **SAIC wins $50 million U.S. Navy contract.** Defense contractor SAIC Inc. said Tuesday it has won a delivery order from the Naval Surface Warfare Center worth up to $50 million over three years. Under the contract, SAIC will help design and develop training tools for submarines and surface ships for the U.S. Navy. SAIC has worked with the Naval Surface Warfare Center for more than 17 years, developing what is known as signature-based trainers, which provide classroom simulations meant to represent the at-sea operating environment for sailors.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071211/saic_contract.html?.v=1

8. *December 10, Government Executive* – (National) **DHS accepts delivery of electronic fence, with caveats.** Amid a strong warning from Congress, the Homeland Security Department last week conditionally accepted delivery of the first phase of a controversial electronic border fence from contractor Boeing Co., and awarded the company a $64 million contract to build the next phase. At a press conference held December 7, the DHS secretary accepted the delivery of the first phase of the Secure Border Initiative Network, a high-tech surveillance system consisting of radars, cameras and ground sensors connected by a wireless satellite network along a 28-mile section in southern Arizona. The secretary said he was "satisfied for now" with the work Boeing has done on the first phase of the contract, known as Project 28. But he added, DHS would continue to be a tough customer, which he said means "if we're not satisfied with something, we're going to tell them [Boeing] we're not satisfied with it."
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38790&dcn=todaysnews

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 11, Sun Media* – (International) **Business bureau named in Internet scam.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB), a leading agency fighting consumer fraud, has itself become the target of an Internet "phishing" scam. Businesses around North America have been receiving an e-mail claiming to contain information about a consumer complaint against the business. The e-mail includes the BBB logo and directs the recipient to click on an attachment to read details about the complaint filed with the Better Business Bureau. An official with the Better Business Bureau of Western Ontario said the e-mail is a fraud and clicking on the attachment allows the sender to access the recipient's computer system to plant viruses or gather information. She added that BBB is trying to track down the source of the e-mails and that most of the calls came from businesses who were not BBB members. This is a sample of the fraudulent e-mail using the Better Business Bureau name and logo: "This is an automated e-mail that confirms the registration of your complaint case number -- filed by (Customer name) on September 23, 2007 against (company name). While the BBB does not resolve

individual consumer problems, this complaint helps us investigate fraud and can lead to law enforcement action."
Source: http://lfpress.ca/newsstand/Business/2007/12/11/4718086-sun.html

10. *December 11, Springfield News-Leader* – (National) **Scam targets Empire customers.** A recent scam that uses fraudulent phone calls allegedly from a bank to tap into accountholders' money is now using fraudulent e-mails, an Empire Bank official said Monday. The e-mail scam cropped up in the 417 area code about two weeks ago. Then, two weekends ago, similar telephone voice mails began, she said. The e-mails resurfaced last week, and Monday Empire Bank had three referrals on the newest e-mail activity, said Empire's vice president. Other banks have been targeted, including Michigan-based Flagstar Bank, she said. "The one today appears to be from Empire Bank and says 'you have one unread, secure message ... click here to solve the problem,'" she said. The link takes the consumer to a page that looks like Empire's Web site and asks for the person's name, e-mail address, ZIP code, 16-digit debit card number, expiration date, CVV code on the back of the debit card, and four-digit PIN number, she said. "So far we've shut down seven Web sites where phishing e-mails had gone out, and an eighth one has gone out today," she said. Web sites were registered in the name of someone whose identity was stolen and paid for with a stolen credit card. The Web address on the e-mail is so similar to the bank's address that consumers overlook the difference or believe it belongs to the bank. In one example, the consumer is told to go to www.empirebankonline.com, which is not Empire Bank's Web site, the vice president said.
Source: http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071211/BUSINESS/712110350/1092

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Transportation Sector

11. *December 11, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Man jailed for alleged bomb threat at OIA.** A man accused of calling in a false bomb threat on an AirTran flight that was bound for Atlanta was arrested Tuesday morning at Orlando International Airport. Officials with AirTran said the man told authorities a woman on the flight had a device and was dangerous. The plane landed safely in Atlanta and officials said all 98 passengers aboard were searched. No explosives were found.
Source: http://www.wesh.com/news/14819738/detail.html

12. *December 11, RAND Corporation* – (National) **RAND study provides framework for passenger-rail systems to cost-effectively protect riders from terrorist attacks.** A RAND Corporation study issued on Tuesday gives rail security planners and policymakers a framework to develop cost-effective plans to secure their rail systems from terrorist attacks. More than 12 million Americans travel on passenger-rail lines each weekday, and because of its open nature, rail transit is considered an attractive terrorist target. While there have been no successful attacks on U.S. rail systems recently, attacks on passenger-rail systems around the world — such as the London Underground in 2005 — highlight the vulnerability of rail travel and the importance of

rail security for passengers. An interdisciplinary team identified 17 security improvement options — such as canine teams, vehicle surveillance systems, and blast resistant containers — and assessed their relative effectiveness when deployed in different parts of the rail system. The study focuses on addressing vulnerabilities and limiting consequences, the two components of risk rail security measures can most influence. Additionally, researchers focused on intra-city heavy rail systems—characterized by high speed and rapid acceleration cars, such as the Metro in Washington, D.C., MARTA in Atlanta, and the Red Line in Los Angeles—and did not include light rail or commuter rail, such as Amtrak. The study finds that 80 percent of the worldwide attacks on rail systems were bombings, followed by sabotage (6 percent) and armed attack (6 percent). Explosives accounted for 77 percent of the weapons used in rail system terrorist incidents, with 8 percent of the incidents involving hoaxes or threats. Researchers examined 11 potential attack locations in a rail system, such as underground infrastructure, ground-level stations, and elevated rail lines, and subjected them to eight different forms of attack, including bombings, incendiaries, and unconventional weapons.
Source: http://www.rand.org/news/press/2007/12/11/

13. *December 10, CNN* – (Virginia, National) **DHS now collecting 10 fingerprints from foreign travelers.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now collecting scans of all 10 fingerprints from foreign travelers entering the United States at Dulles International Airport, and plans to extend the program to all international airports in the country by the end of next year. The program -- known as United States Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology, or US-VISIT -- had previously used only two fingerprints. The new 10-print system was rolled out in late November at Dulles. The DHS secretary said the two-fingerprint version of the program, which began in 2004, has already been successful, claiming that the program had stopped "almost 2,000 criminals and immigrant violators based on their fingerprints alone." Canadians and Mexicans using government-issued identification cards are exempt from the program. However, privacy advocates such as the Electronic Privacy Information Center claim the system puts personal information at risk. A July 2007 Government Accountability Office report found that "systems supporting the US-VISIT program have significant information security control weaknesses that place sensitive and personally identifiable information at increased risk of unauthorized and possibly undetected disclosure and modification, misuse and destruction." DHS insists that there have been no privacy breaches in the US-VISIT program. Travel and tourism groups fear that more barriers to international travel will make foreigners less likely to visit the United States.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2007/TRAVEL/12/10/visitors.fingerprints/index.html?section=cnn_latest

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *December 11, All Headline News* – (International) **U.S., China eye third agreement on agricultural products.** On Wednesday, under the China-U.S. Strategic Economic Dialogue, China and the U.S. are set to discuss a pact that is expected to cover the safety of agricultural products. The U.S. Deputy Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services told China Daily, "The agreement aims to improve our working relationship and cooperation on how to handle problems of meat, poultry and egg products." An agreement was signed Tuesday between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine to cover export of food and animal feed. To implement the signed agreements, the two countries will prepare a list of export products of plant or animal origin or raw material used in manufactured food and farm-bred fish. New registration and certification requirements will be adopted sufficient to trace source of production or source of raw materials. Any significant risks to public health caused by product safety, recalls or similar situations will require 48 hours notification from both nations.
Source: http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7009421454

15. *December 11, Associated Press* – (South) **Southern farmers may get drought relief.** Congress plans to extend a disaster relief deadline so farmers affected by drought this year can receive cash assistance to offset losses. The extension, which is estimated to cost some $600 million, will be included in a spending bill that lawmakers are expected to take up this week. Farmers and ranchers nationwide would be eligible, but the extension would be particularly beneficial to Southern growers facing one of the worst droughts on record. Many farmers in the region are already eligible for low-cost loans, but the government would actually write them checks under the proposed legislation. Earlier this year, Congress passed legislation allowing farmers to get emergency payments for losses in one of three years between 2005 and 2007. The legislation included a cutoff of February 28, 2007, meaning that millions of dollars in losses from the ongoing drought or from this year's late spring freeze were not eligible. The new language would extend the deadline through the end of 2007.
Source:
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hSLrNNgUlbtsOqJUOn0kHJgw_ASwD8TF522G0

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Water Sector

16. *December 10, WYMT 57* – (Kentucky) **State of emergency issued due to water shortage.** People in Fleming-Neon, Kentucky, and several surrounding communities are being urged to conserve water in any way possible after the mayor there issued a state of emergency Sunday night. Officials are saying the water levels and the area's main backup water sources are at critical levels and, despite recent rain, it could be some time before the rain reaches the water supply. The state of emergency is also affecting

residents in the McRoberts, Seco, Hempfill, and Haymond areas.
Source: http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/12298551.html

17. *December 10, Atlanta Business Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Metro leaders discuss Atlanta's water crisis.** A panel of Atlanta business and government leaders gathered December 10 at the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce to discuss regulatory challenges facing the metro area during its historic drought; usage restrictions and other measures that have been enacted to conserve water; and new ideas that could help the region avoid the same situation in 2008. Among the challenges highlighted were the role of federal authorities in Georgia's battles with Alabama and Florida over the water in Lake Lanier, Atlanta's primary drinking source, and the belief by many in rural Georgia that Atlanta is consuming more than its share of the state's water.
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2007/12/10/daily7.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *December 11, Washington Post* – (National) **Virus starts like a cold but can turn into a killer.** There is a new, apparently more virulent form of an adenovirus circulating around the United States. At least 1,035 Americans in four states have been infected so far this year by the virus. The new adenovirus is a variant of a strain known as adenovirus 14. First identified in Holland in 1955, it has caused sporadic outbreaks in Europe and Asia. No outbreaks, however, had ever been documented in the Western Hemisphere. While it usually causes nothing worse than a bad cold, dozens of people infected with it have been hospitalized, many requiring intensive care, and at least 10 have died. Health officials say the virus does not seem to be causing life-threatening illness on a wide scale, and most people who develop colds or flu-like symptoms are at little or no risk. Likewise, most people infected by the suspect adenovirus do not appear to become seriously ill. The germ appears to be spreading and investigators are unsure how much of a threat it poses.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/10/AR2007121001630_pf.html

19. *December 11, Science Daily* – (National) **Bird-flu expert calls for changes in early-warning system.** The international science community is not doing enough to track the many avian influenza viruses that might cause the next pandemic, the co-director of the $18.5 million Center for Rapid Influenza Surveillance and Research says. The current surveillance strategy in wild birds is piecemeal and risks missing important virus sources or subtypes, the researcher wrote. He claims surveillance has focused too heavily on Europe and North America, where few wild birds are infected. More emphasis should be placed on areas where the virus is endemic, such as China, Southeast Asia, and Africa, he argues. He also wrote that the "narrow focus on H5N1 misses other viruses that also pose pandemic risks," and that samples and data on viruses must be shared more promptly.
Source: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/12/071207091915.htm

20. *December 10, KPHO 5 Phoenix*– (National) **Shortage sparks medical test delays.** Thousands of patients nationwide face delays in crucial medical tests because of a shortage of technetium-99, a radioactive substance used in those examinations. By one estimate, the substance is used in at least 15 million medical scans a year in the U.S. Those scans are used to diagnose and assess a wide variety of conditions including cancer, heart disease and bone or kidney illnesses. The cause of the shortages is the unexpectedly long shutdown of a nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario. The 50-year-old reactor is North America's biggest source of the radioactive isotope that makes technetium. Companies that make these cylinders say they are working with other suppliers in Europe and South Africa to try to ease the shortage.
Source: http://www.kpho.com/news/14818622/detail.html

Government Facilities Sector

21. *December 10, ABC 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Gun report causes lockdown at Horizon High School**. A two-hour lockdown at Horizon High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, ended without incident on Monday morning. An announcement on the school's website said all students and staff were safe. One of students had reported seeing a male teenager with the gun around 8:30 a.m., according to officials from the Phoenix Police Department. Crews searched the school and surrounding area for the gunman, but did not find any suspects at the scene. Police said they do not think the suspect is a student at Horizon.
Source: http://www.abc15.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=7a3d9545-f31a-473d-b603-42fcad3827bd

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *December 11, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **California's earthquake warning system lags those in Europe, Japan.** When earthquakes send their destructive seismic waves coursing through the ground, an early warning system could save countless lives, and California scientists are testing a promising one right now. But even if the system works, the state would need far more seismic monitoring stations than it now has, and the statewide network of 250 to 300 instruments would need a major upgrade, a University of California, Berkeley geophysicist reported Monday. Technology now being tested could provide seconds or even minutes of early notification that a dangerous quake has struck on any of the seismic faults that run through California's ground like stitching on a complex fabric, said a scientist from UC Berkley's Seismological Laboratory during a panel discussion by earthquake safety experts at the American Geophysical Union, which is in San Francisco for a weeklong conference. Even 10 seconds, which might not seem like much, would be enough warning to trigger "duck-and-cover" alarms seconds before the ground starts shaking violently. In major quakes, warning could prompt the doors of ambulance stations and firehouses to open automatically or alert utility operators to shut down power

transmission lines or gas main networks. The Berkeley system, developed two years ago, is one of three under test by California's Integrated Seismic Network. The tests will continue until July 2009, but even if they demonstrate complete success, the state's network of seismic monitoring instruments is far from ready, he said, and would be quite costly. The same sessions saw reports that scientists in 14 nations of the European Union have developed seismic early warning systems around three big cities that lie in seismically dangerous areas and where adequate networks of seismometers exist: Naples, Italy; Istanbul, Turkey; and Bucharest, Romania. Turkey has a new warning system to provide an eight-second alert for the Istanbul gas company and the city's subway system, and Japan started a new seismic early warning system October 1. Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/11/MN4OTRN8S.DTL

23. *December 11, PRNewswire-FirstCall* – (Pennsylvania) **ETC delivers school violence simulation trainer to Pennsylvania Counter Terrorism Task Force.** Environmental Tectonics Corporation announced in a Tuesday press release that it had delivered a new training scenario to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Counterterrorism Task Force (CTTF) for their Advanced Disaster Management Simulator, ADMS-COMMAND. Originally delivered in 2006 with the ability to train multi-disciplinary first responder teams in dealing with many types of transportation-related accidents, hazardous materials releases and chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive disasters, the CTTF's ADMS-COMMAND system has now been upgraded with the ability to train SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) personnel in mitigating a hostage situation at a suburban high school. The scenario, designed by CTTF subject matter experts with ETC's ADMS curriculum developers, is an open-ended and dynamic simulation of a six-classroom high school building with over 100 students, teachers and administrators. The scenario presents a number of armed terrorists who have taken the school hostage. Responders must react appropriately and mitigate the developing situation to best avoid and minimize casualties. Since no ADMS scenarios are pre-scripted, the action and results depend entirely on the choices made by responders during the exercise. CTTF instructors have the ability to customize exercises on the fly to allow for different types of situations, including varying the number of armed hostage-takers, their tactics, the number of hostages, and number of casualties. Source: http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NETU06011122007-1.htm

24. *December 10, The York Dispatch* – (Pennsylvania) **Training teaches dangers of new car technologies.** With a body made entirely of carbon fiber that is lighter than fiberglass and stronger than steel, how could a new, higher mileage Corvette possibly be a bad thing? When a firefighter who shows up on the scene of a crash and touches the broken material gets a severe skin rash that hospital staff have to scrub out of the skin with a stiff brush. The new Corvette -- along with hybrid cars and cars with alternative construction materials -- is one of several automotive advances that could harm emergency workers who respond to car accidents. With gasoline prices soaring, more of the vehicles are around. About 50 York County firefighters turned out for a North York training session Sunday to teach emergency responders how to safely work with new

technologies. Firefighters learned about safety practices on a variety of subjects, from hydrogen-powered cars and air bags to new motorist extrication methods. When the vehicle reaches its operating temperature, the gasoline engine shuts down. "You would not even know the car is running because it's silent," said the coordinator. Firefighters have to be aware of such vehicles -- and turn them off before they begin a rescue -- because they carry extremely high voltages, he said. An electric car's power system can require 140 to 700 volts. The normal voltage level for a house is 120, he said. To his knowledge, no firefighters have had encounters with the new technologies; the idea behind the training is to allow firefighters to be proactive instead of reactive and avoid getting hurt.
Source: http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Training-Teaches-Dangers-of-New-Car-Technologies/1$6694

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Information Technology

25. *December 11, IDG News Service* – (National) **DNS attack could signal Phishing 2.0.** Researchers at Google and the Georgia Institute of Technology are studying a virtually undetectable form of attack that quietly controls where victims go on the Internet. The study, set to be published in February, takes a close look at "open recursive" DNS servers, which are used to tell computers how to find each other on the Internet by translating domain names like google.com into numerical Internet Protocol addresses. Criminals are using these servers in combination with new attack techniques to develop a new generation of phishing attacks. The researchers estimate that there are 17 million open-recursive DNS servers on the Internet, the vast majority of which give accurate information. Unlike other DNS servers, open-recursive systems will answer all DNS lookup requests from any computer on the Internet, a feature that makes them particularly useful for hackers. The Georgia Tech and Google researchers estimate that as many as 0.4 percent, or 68,000, open-recursive DNS servers are behaving maliciously, returning false answers to DNS queries. They also estimate that another two percent of them provide questionable results. Collectively, these servers are beginning to form a "second secret authority" for DNS that is undermining the trustworthiness of the Internet, the researchers warned. Attacks on the DNS system are not new, and online criminals have been changing DNS settings in victim's computers for at least four years now, said a Georgia Tech researcher. But only recently have the bad guys lined up the technology and expertise to reliably launch this particular type of attack in a more widespread way. While the first such attacks used computer viruses to make these changes, lately attackers have been relying on Web-based malware.
Source: http://www.networkworld.com/news/2007/121107-dns-attack-could-signal-phishing.html?fsrc=rss-security

26. *December 10, Geostrategy-Direct.com* – (International) **Online terror camps cut overhead, teach Google Earth target acquisition.** Western governments have ceded the Internet to terrorists, security experts are warning. Most European Union governments as well as the United States have dismissed pro-Al Qaida websites as merely propaganda without understanding their capability to recruit and carry out

operations. Western experts said Al Qaida's use of the Internet has been so successful that the movement has shut down training camps in Afghanistan. Instead, they said, the Internet is used to teach operatives how to kill and maim. "Now they meet in cyberspace," a professor in Israel and Germany told a conference on Internet security at the headquarters of Germany's Federal Police Office. "They teach people how to become terrorists on-line. Al Qaida has launched a practical website that shows how to use weapons, how to carry out a kidnapping, how to use fertilizer to make bombs." Here is how it works: Al Qaida operates a series of websites that covers everything from indoctrination, recruitment, targeting, and operations. Those with questions can use Al Qaida's chat rooms. The Internet has vastly reduced the need for target reconnaissance by Al Qaida. The professor, regarded as a leading expert in Al Qaida-aligned websites, told the November 21 conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, that Al Qaida uses Google Earth, which scours satellite images, to locate targets. But Western governments have been torn between following Internet crime and terrorism. The president of the German Federal Police Office raised another issue. Terrorists and other criminals often use laptops in apartment buildings where they latch on to the connections of other wireless users, which he said often prevents authorities from identifying users of Al Qaida websites. A former British parliamentarian and president of the British Defence and Security Forum agreed, saying terrorists operate 7,000 websites that remain in operation and uncensored.
Source:
http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2007/me_terror_12_10.asp

27. *December 10, XML Journal* – (National) **SMobile predicts spike in mobile viruses once Google phone hits.** According to SMobile Systems, the launch of Google Phone platform will be among the most positive transformational moments in mobile communications history by further merging computers with mobile devices. But while millions of people will now be able to "compute on the run," those same consumers will be a high-value target for hackers, spammers, and others intent on hacking the new phones. In response to the news surrounding the potential launch of the Google Phone operating platform, SMobile Systems, a developer of mobile security solutions, announced today that it is developing a series of security solutions for devices coming to market using the Google platform. The open architecture of Linux, the operating system Google chose for its phones, will allow thousands of developers to create third party applications for Google-enabled devices. Its Linux-based operating system will quickly enable hackers to explore and eventually exploit any security holes in the core Google software as well as third party software, allowing phishers, spammers, and others to look for ways to target users' information for ill intent. "SMobile has monitored an explosion in mobile viruses around the world; there are now more than 400 identified mobile viruses. No longer are these viruses merely nuisances. These viruses are getting more insidious in nature, smarter in their design, and ultimately more dangerous to consumers, corporate smart phone users and to the carriers who provide service," said the firm's chief technology officer.
Source: http://xml.sys-con.com/read/471793.htm

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report.

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Commercial Facilities Sector

28. *December 10, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Columbia County storm damage at $24.5 million.** Last Monday and Tuesday, the Nehalem River flowed over its banks and rushed through Vernonia, a small Columbia County logging town in Oregon. Violent storms that hours earlier slammed Oregon coastal communities swelled the river and its tributaries. This Monday, Columbia County emergency operation managers said initial private property estimates showed damage to 355 homes and 42 businesses, which is estimated to cost $24.5 million. The amount of damage to public property could be finalized in the next two days.
Source: http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2007/12/columbia_county_storm_damage_a.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

29. *December 11, Jackson Hole Daily* – (Wyoming) **Governor repeats protest of Hoback wells.** The Wyoming governor said he remains opposed to a plan to drill gas wells in Bridger-Teton National Forest near the Hoback Ranches subdivision. The U.S. Forest Service published an outline of the plan Monday in the Federal Register. Plains Exploration & Production Co. would construct 136 wells on 17 well pads on part of more than 20,000 acres of national forest land that the company has leased on the Hoback Rim adjacent to the Wyoming Range. The preliminary plan would impact about 400 acres. The company had initially proposed drilling one to three exploratory gas wells on a 4.5-acre lot within two miles of the Hoback Ranches subdivision, but Plains Exploration asked the Forest Service to withdraw an environmental impact statement on the three-well wildcat project in June in order to conduct a more expansive review of drilling in the area. The company reconsidered after the Forest Service received roughly 19,000 comments on the project from across the country, almost all of which were opposed to drilling in the forest. Some said the environmental impact statement should examine the effects of a full-scale development to properly ascertain the project's effects

on such things as wildlife, air quality and recreation. At the time, the governor, officials with the Wyoming tourism department, and officials with the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce all opposed the project.
Source: http://www.jhguide.com/article.php?art_id=2512

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Dams Sector

30. *December 11, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps levee soils dispute growing.** In New Orleans, a coalition of environmental and community groups is criticizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its method of identifying the unprecedented amount of borrow needed to build a 100-year level of protection against hurricane-driven surges. The building battle over borrow -- where to get enough robust, levee-building soil and at what cost to taxpayers and landowners -- will be the focus of a public hearing. The corps has adopted more stringent borrow standards since Katrina, meaning that soils once considered permissible for levee-building are no longer allowed. Corps representatives have said the agency needs some 150 million cubic yards of high-quality clay to improve the hurricane protection system by 2011.
Source: http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1197182364104270.xml&coll=1

31. *December 10, Associated Press* – (Northwest) **Federal judge critical of salmon plans.** The federal judge overseeing efforts to balance salmon against dams in the Columbia Basin has told federal dam operators their latest effort does not appear to be any better than two previous failed plans, and he will take over the process rather than send it back to them a third time. The judge wrote that the plan appears to rely heavily on $1.5 billion worth of habitat improvement projects, hatchery reforms, predator control, and dam modifications, with no assurance Congress will pay for them or that they will help salmon. On the upper Snake River in Idaho, the federal agencies do not appear willing to consider significant change to the status quo of running the dams, the judge added.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/343065_salmon11.html

32. *December 10, Associated Press* – (International) **Brazilian consortium wins auction to build Amazon dam after protests delay bidding.** A Brazilian consortium won an auction Monday to build and operate a major dam in the Amazon rain forest following a bidding process disrupted by protesters who claim the project will displace thousands and harm the environment. The auction was delayed for hours while riot police removed about 80 protesters who stormed the Brasilia offices of Brazilian electric power agency Aneel before dawn. Brazil's Movement of Dam-Affected People organized the protest along with groups representing landless workers, saying the 3,150 megawatt dam and another one nearby could force 10,000 people from their remote rural homes. Police arrested eight demonstrators, and several hundred marched later from the agency's office toward Congress.
Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/12/10/america/LA-GEN-Brazil-Amazon-Dam.php

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